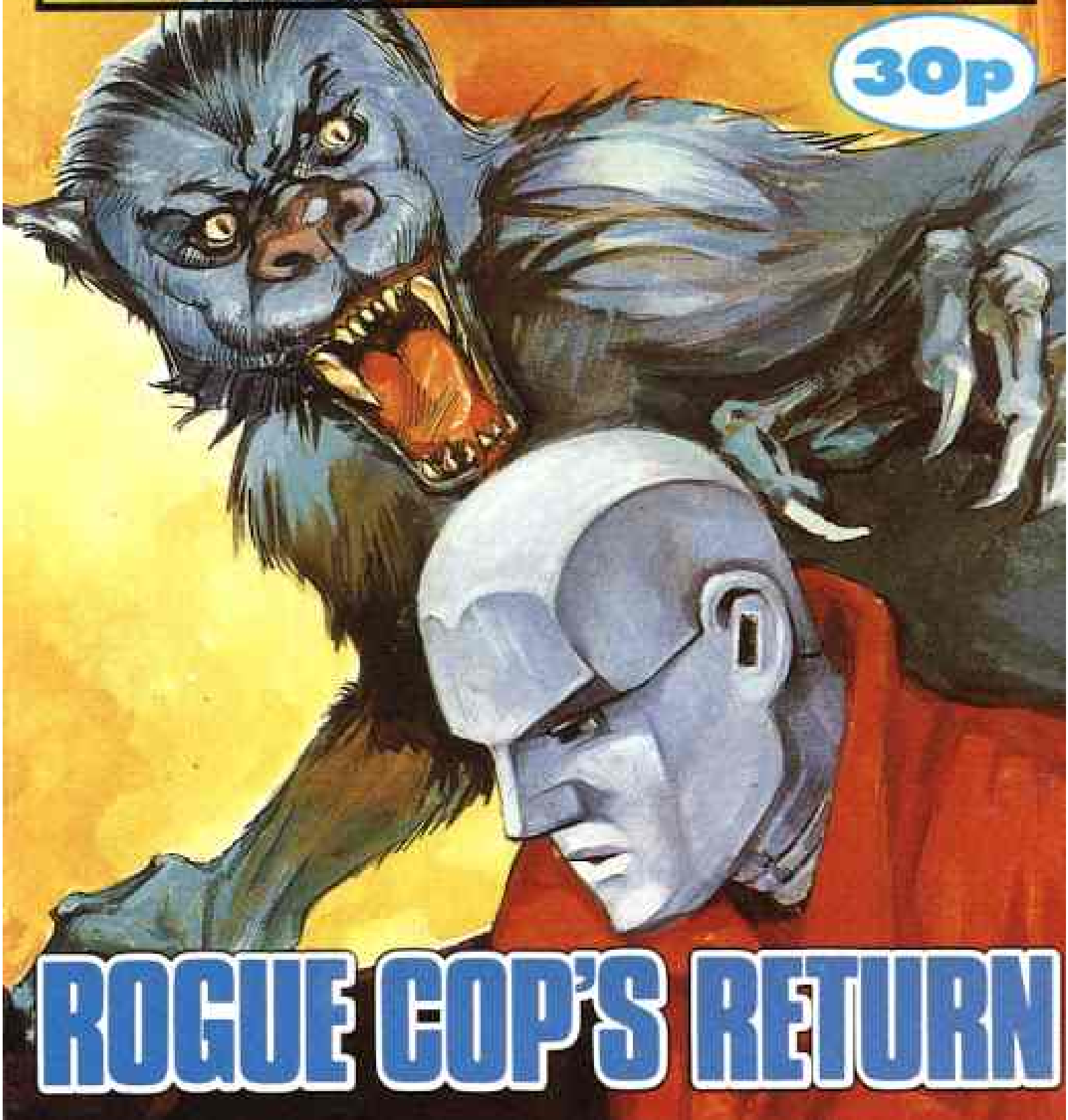
STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No.227

30p



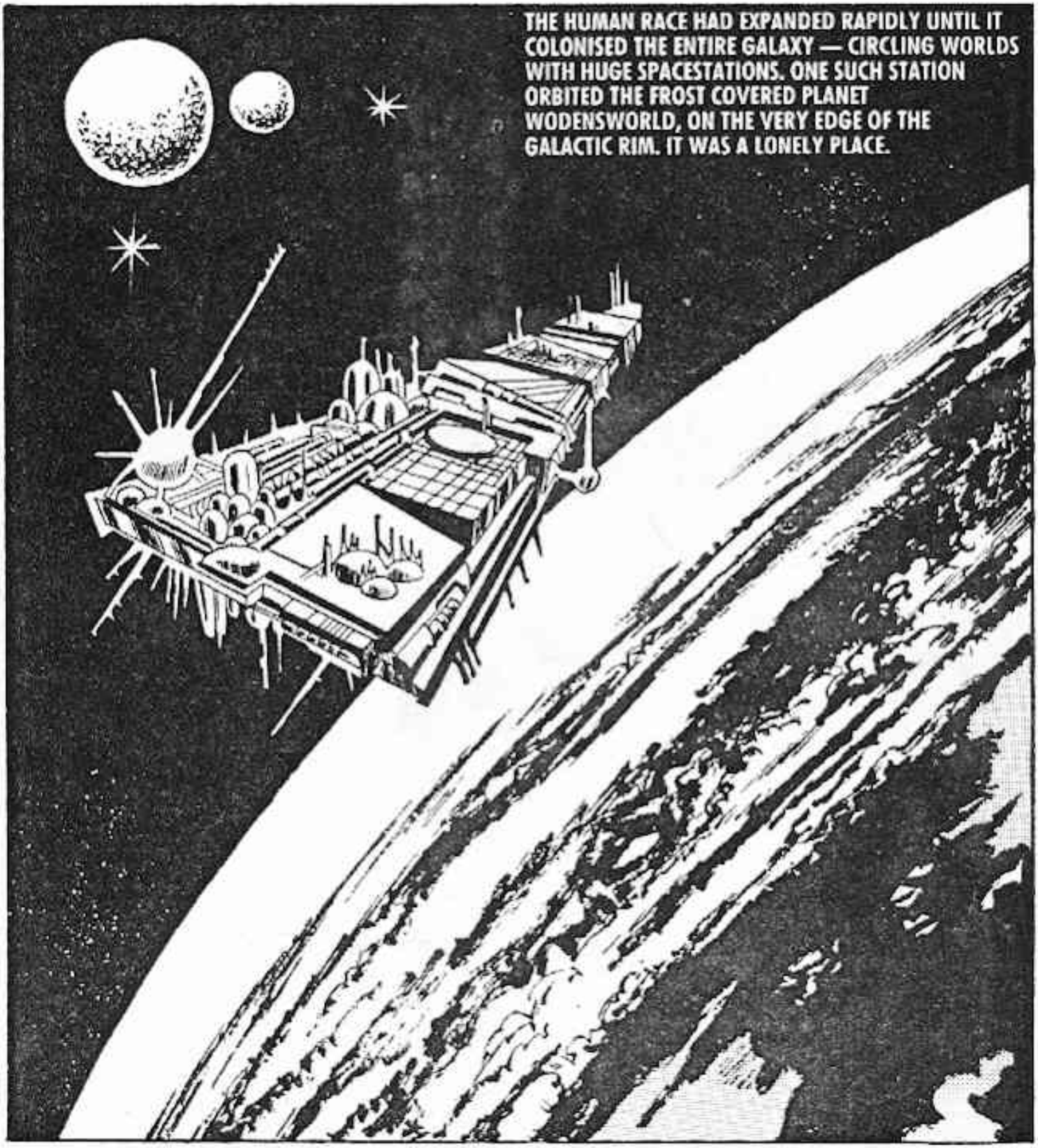
ROGUE COP'S RETURN

DON'T FORGET THIS MONTH'S OTHER

NOW ON SALE

Have you missed a copy of Starblazer? Well, we can prevent it happening again — with an annual subscription. All you have to do is write for details to STARBLAZER SUBSCRIPTIONS, D. C. THOMSON & CO., LTD., BANK STREET, DUNDEE DD1 9HU. enclosing an SAE for your reply.

ROGUE COP'S RETURN



WODEN 1 WAS A TRANSIT POINT FOR MINERS—
UNLOADING CREW REPORT TO DOCK 7.

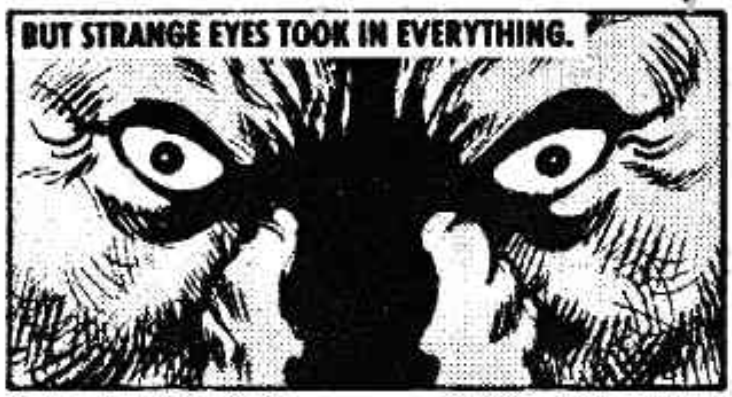
BUT THE UNLOADING CREW NEVER GOT THERE . . .
RED ALERT, SECTION SEVEN! RED ALERT, SECTION SEVEN! ALL SECURITY UNITS TO SECTION SEVEN!

YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, SIR! WE'VE FOUND CREWMAN BRIGGS AND . . . IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S BEEN CLAWED TO DEATH!

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE SPACESTATION, COMMANDER HARCOURT WAS AT THE COMMUNICATIONS DESK.
SEND A TEAM DOWN TO CLEAN UP. MEANWHILE, S EAL OFF THE AREA, EVANS, AND BE CAREFUL!
YES, SIR!

THE STATION'S FIRST OFFICER WAS PAUL STARK, THE COMMANDER'S TRUSTED RIGHT HAND MAN.
THAT'S ANOTHER ONE, SIR! HOW MANY MORE ARE THERE GOING TO BE?
I DON'T KNOW . . . BUT WE MUST KEEP IT QUIET OR PANIC WILL SPREAD.
TWO OTHERS HAD HEARD THE CONVERSATION—
THREE PEOPLE HAVE GONE MISSING. THEN A BODY TURNS UP, AND THEY WANT US TO KEEP QUIET!
THAT'LL BE RIGHT . . . LOOK, I'M GOING TO CONTACT EARTH. JUST GIVE ME TIME TO WASH AND CHANGE.

OKAY, I'LL SEE YOU IN HALF AN HOUR.
YEAH — THEN WE'LL SORT THIS OUT.


BUT STRANGE EYES TOOK IN EVERYTHING.

AN HOUR LATER—
C'MON, YOU'RE LATE! PETE?

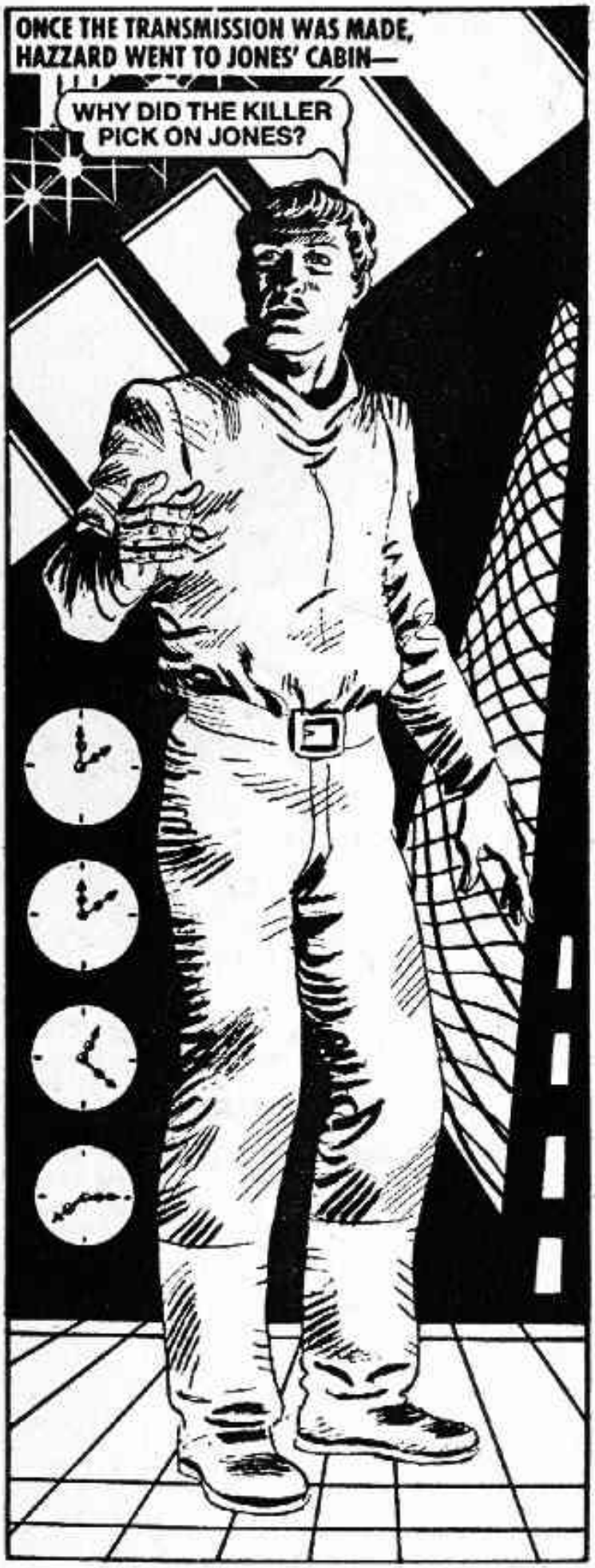
PETE . . . OH, HEAVENS!

HAZZARD REPORTED TO THE COMMANDER.
SIR, IT'S JONES, SIR, HE . . . HE'S DEAD!

A SECURITY TEAM MOVED IN.
LET ME THROUGH, I . . .
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, HAZZARD. MY MEN HAVE THE SITUATION WELL UNDER CONTROL. I SUGGEST YOU GO TO YOUR CABIN AND GET SOME REST. IN FACT, I INSIST. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

PERFECTLY CLEAR! THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON HERE AND THEY DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT IT. BUT WHAT?

HAZZARD DID WHAT HE AND JONES WERE GOING TO DO—
I OWE IT TO PETE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON. COME IN, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY . . . I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE CRIMES ARE BEING HUSHED UP ON WODEN 1 . . . I'M CREWMAN HAZZARD.


ONCE THE TRANSMISSION WAS MADE, HAZZARD WENT TO JONES' CABIN—
WHY DID THE KILLER PICK ON JONES?

WHAT'S THIS? A VIDCARD FOR THE SCIENCE RESEARCH COMPANY OPERATING ON LEVEL 5! JONES DIDN'T HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH THEM.

WHY DID HE HAVE THIS VIDCARD? HE HAD NO REASON TO WORK WITH ONE OF THESE.

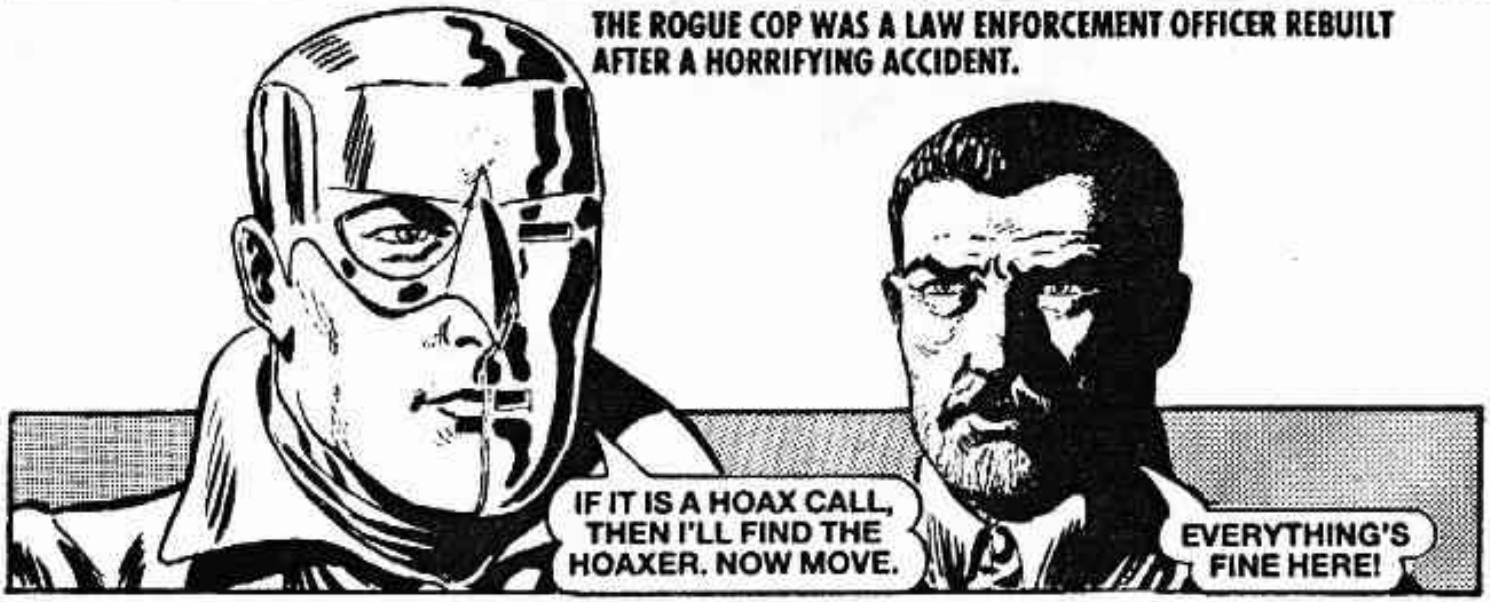
THE VIDCARD SHOWED WHAT JONES HAD BEEN WORKING ON—
NOW . . . WHAT WAS HE WORKING ON?

. . . WHAT? HE WAS CONNECTED WITH THAT?

THAT SOMEBODY WAS AN EX-LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OPERATIVE . . .
A MAN WHO USED TO BE CALLED RENKO — AND WAS NOW CALLED ROGUE COP.

BUT I ASSURE YOU, THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL WRONG HERE — YOU'VE HAD A WASTED JOURNEY. IT WAS A HOAX CALL.

THE ROGUE COP WAS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REBUILT AFTER A HORRIFYING ACCIDENT.



THEN WHY DID I GET A MESSAGE FROM HAZZARD?

PROBABLY A JOKE . . . IT'S BORING HERE— NOTHING HAPPENS.
I WANT TO SEE HAZZARD — NOW!

THERE ISN'T ANYONE ABOARD THE STATION CALLED HAZZARD, NOR HAS THERE EVER BEEN. YOU APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A PRACTICAL JOKE.

AM I? WELL, IF YOU'VE NOTHING TO HIDE, YOU WON'T MIND IF I DO A LITTLE INVESTIGATING THEN, WILL YOU?

ROGUE COP SET ABOUT TRACING THE CALL—

YOU LOG ALL OFF STATION CALLS . . . GIVE ME DETAILS ON THE CALL MADE TO ME AT 0721 — JXK!

IF IT WAS MADE . . . IT'LL BE HERE!

NOTHING, SIR. NO CALL WAS MADE FROM HERE AT THAT TIME.
FUNNY! I KNOW I RECEIVED THAT CALL, AND MY COMPUTER VERIFIED ITS SOURCE AS GENUINE — SO WHAT IS GOING ON?

IF YOU'RE HIDING ANYTHING FROM ME AND I FIND OUT, YOU AND YOUR BACKSIDE WILL BE KICKED INTO AN ISO CUBE FOR THE NEXT MILLION ORBITS.
I'M N . . . NOT HIDING ANYTHING . . . THAT'S ALL THE INFORMATION I HAVE.

THE ROGUE COP DECIDED TO USE HIS CRAFT'S COMPUTER TO CHECK CREW LISTS WITH EARTH.
MY CIRCUITS ARE BUZZING . . . A SURE SIGN OF TROUBLE.

AND TROUBLE WAS WHAT HE GOT IN THE SHAPE OF A PUSH RIGHT DOWN A GARBAGE CHUTE.
WHAT THE . . .

ROGUE COP PLUNGED TOWARDS A SLIMY POOL—
1.2 SECONDS TO IMPACT . . . MUST ENTER POOL PROPERLY OR MY CIRCUITS WILL BE DAMAGED.

THE ROGUE COP MANAGED TO ENTER THE LIQUID LIKE AN OLYMPIC DIVER.

BIO BREAKDOWN AGENTS — DESIGNED TO KILL BACTERIA — BUT IF I'M NOT CAREFUL IT'LL KILL ME!

ROGUE COP BLASTED OUT AN EXIT—
GOOD MORNING . . . HAVEN'T YOU SEEN A COP WORKING BEFORE?

HE CLEANED UP, THEN WENT LOOKING. AT THE SPACESTATION MAIN CANTEEN.
NO MORE MR NICE GUY . . . I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BEND A FEW ARMS — AND THE SHIP'S DOCTOR WILL BE FIRST.

GOOD AFTERNOON, DOCTOR. I'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS WHICH I'M SURE YOU WON'T MIND ANSWERING. FIRST, DID HAZZARD EVER REPORT TO YOU FOR TREATMENT.
N . . . NO . . . HE WAS FIT AND HEALTHY. EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT TO MAKE AN URGENT VISIT TO A PATIENT.

ONE MINUTE . . . SO HAZZARD DID EXIST, DESPITE WHAT STARK SAID.

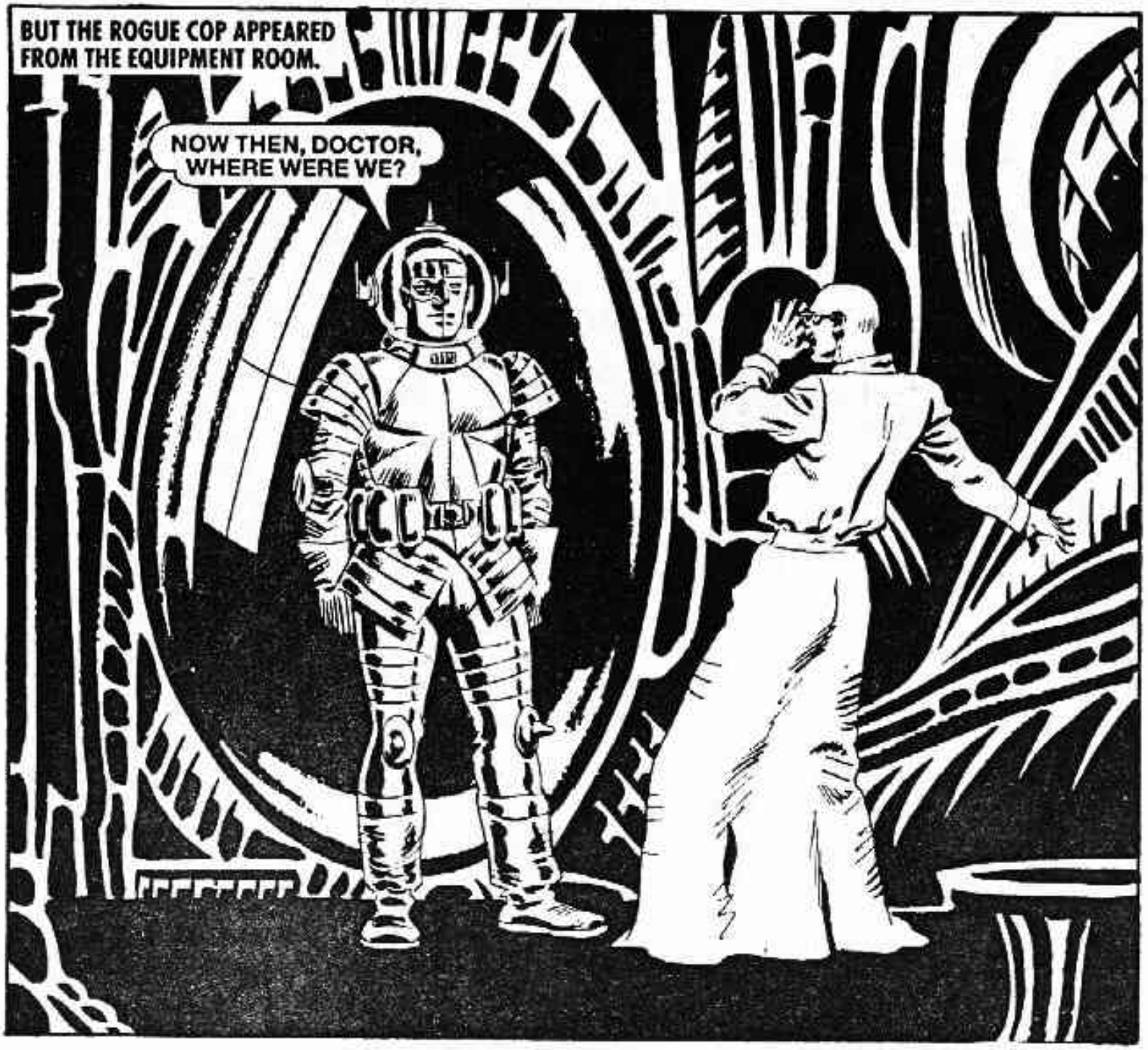
I'M NOT SAYING ANY MORE.

COME BACK . . . I'M NOT FINISHED.

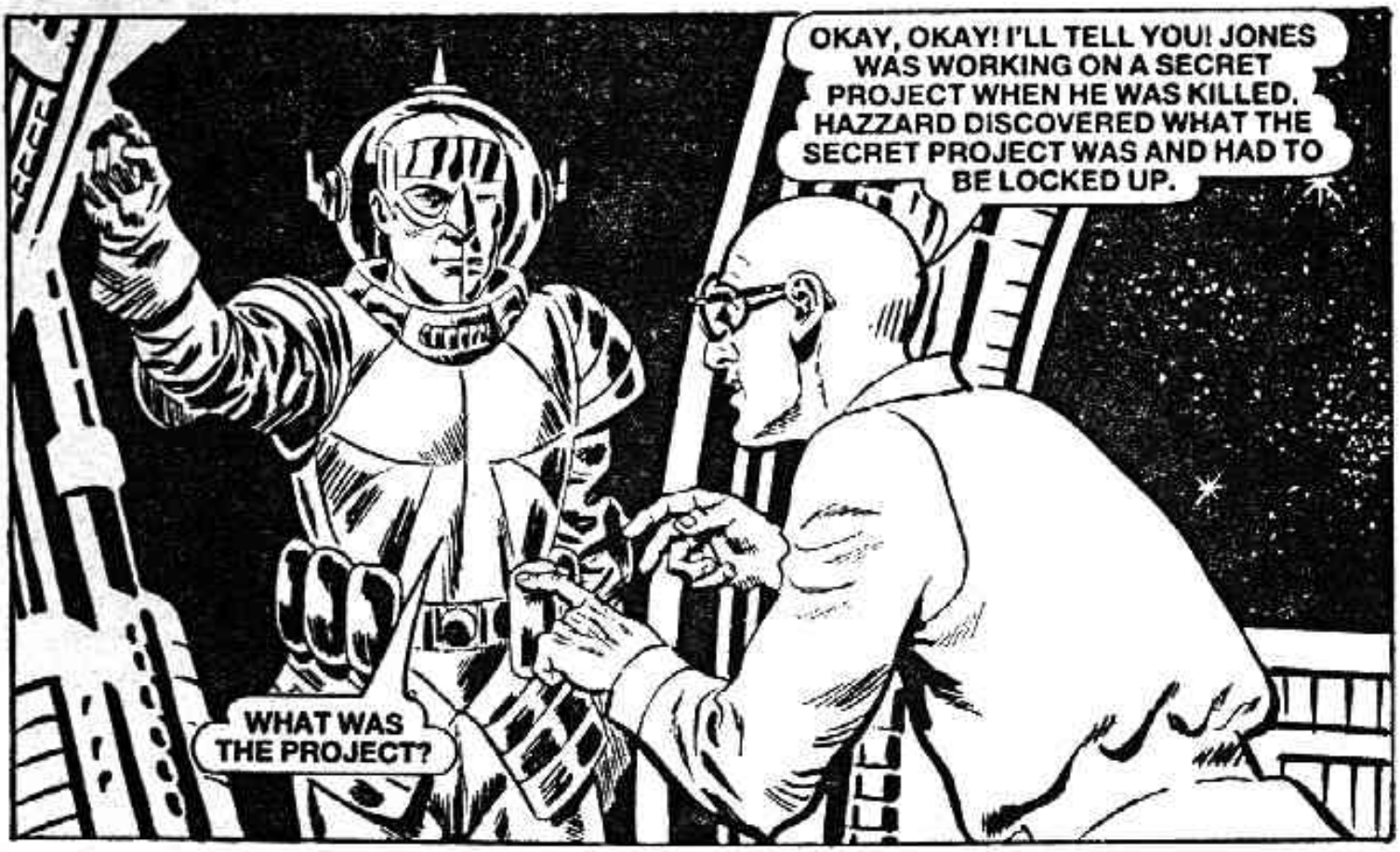
AIRLOCK
AN AIRLOCK! I COULD HIDE IN HERE . . .

LOST HIM! BUT THEN AGAIN, MAYBE NOT . . .
AIRLOCK

HE HASN'T SPOTTED ME! I'LL BE SAFE IN HERE — SAFE FROM HIM AND SAFE FROM . . . THEM!


BUT THE ROGUE COP APPEARED FROM THE EQUIPMENT ROOM.
NOW THEN, DOCTOR, WHERE WERE WE?

I'LL PRESS THIS . . . I'M SURE AS A DOCTOR YOU KNOW THE EFFECT RAW VACUUM HAS ON A HUMAN BODY. WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?


OKAY, OKAY! I'LL TELL YOU! JONES WAS WORKING ON A SECRET PROJECT WHEN HE WAS KILLED. HAZZARD DISCOVERED WHAT THE SECRET PROJECT WAS AND HAD TO BE LOCKED UP.
WHAT WAS THE PROJECT?

THE CHANEY PROJECT . . . SCIENCE LAB 10 . . . THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
GUESS I'M NOT GOING TO GET ANY MORE OUT OF YOU!
ROGUE COP LEFT THE DOCTOR AND HEADED FOR LAB 10.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, BARGING IN HERE?
JUST NOSING AROUND.
BUT YOU CAN'T . . .
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON . . . BUT THESE TWO BOZOS ARE GOING TO TELL ME.

GLOWL
WHAT'S THAT?
OH — ER — NOTHING REALLY. WE'VE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS WITH OUR AIR CONDITIONING AND SOMETIMES IT MAKES A NOISE.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A DOG IN IT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER CERTAIN PLANTS WILL GROW IN SPACE.
SO WHY ALL THE ANIMALS?

ROGUE COP'S COMPUTERISED WARNING SYSTEM ALERTED HIM.
TUT! TUT! NOT VERY FRIENDLY! NOW TELL THE TRUTH!

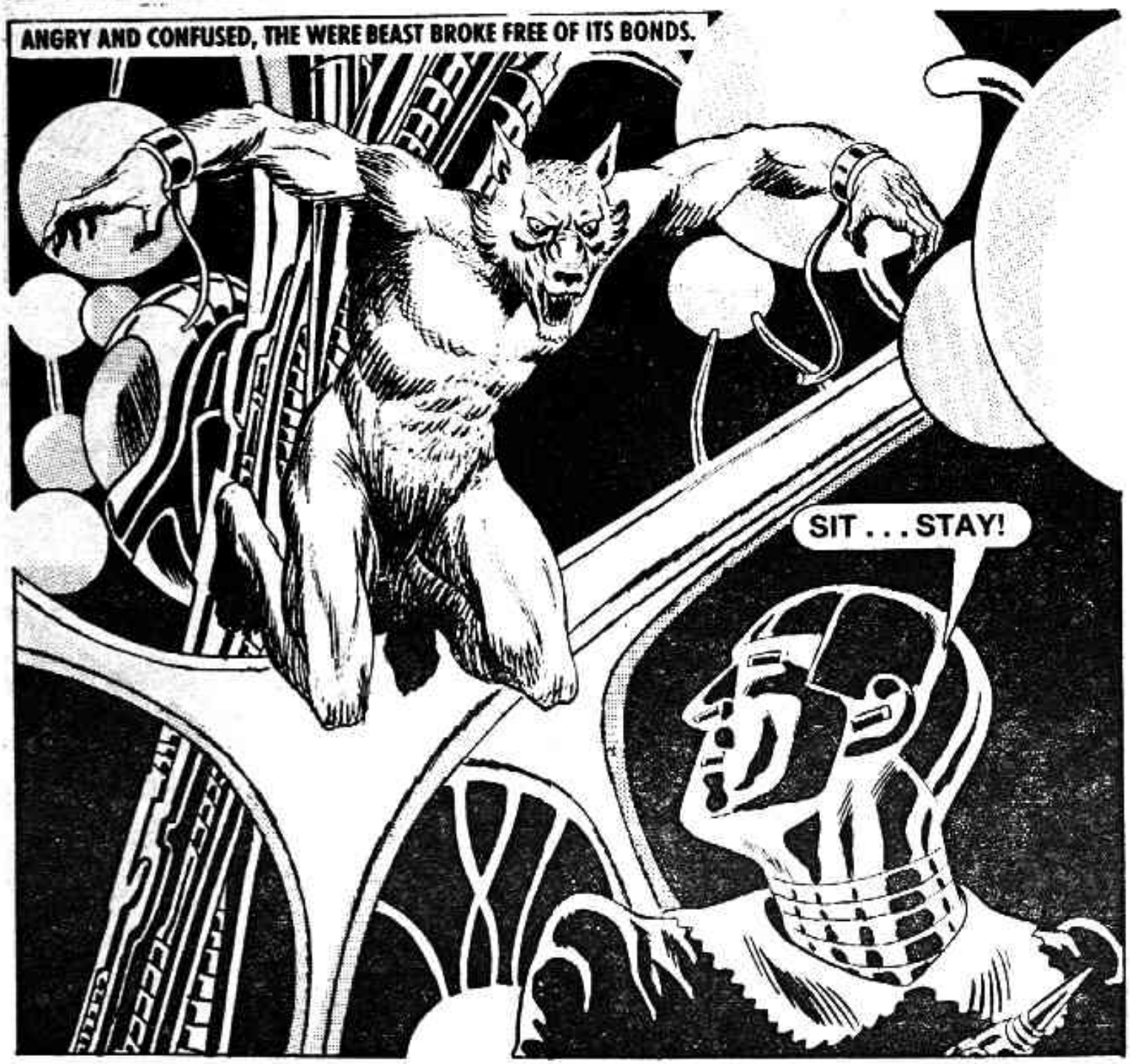
THE SCIENTIST EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE DEVELOPING ARTIFICIAL ANIMALS.
GENE EXPERIMENTS!!

GROWL
THERE'S THAT SOUND AGAIN!

ER . . . HELLO . . . BOY! THAT'S NO BEAST I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE!

NOW — WHAT GIVES?
I SUPPOSE YOU'LL HAVE TO KNOW.
THE SCIENTIST EXPLAINED THAT THE WEREWOLF WAS A GENETIC EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED. WHILE TESTS WERE BEING DONE, IT ESCAPED AND WENT ON AN ORGY OF KILLING.

YOU'RE SCUM . . . YOU CREATED THAT THING AND YOU'LL STAND TRIAL FOR ITS CRIMES! MOVE!


ANGRY AND CONFUSED, THE WERE BEAST BROKE FREE OF ITS BONDS.
SIT . . . STAY!

SNARLING, THE BEAST REACTED TO ITS NEW FREEDOM IN THE ONLY WAY IT KNEW HOW — IN A BLOOD LUST.

COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

ROGUE COP WAS IN BIG TROUBLE AS A FLAILING SET OF CLAWS CAUGHT HIM ON THE HEAD.
AAARGH! ONLY ONE THING FOR IT!

USING MY AUXILIARY SYSTEMS WILL WEAKEN ME, BUT MIGHT STOP THIS THING.

HOWL!

HURT, FRIGHTENED AND ANGRY, THE BEMUSED CREATURE SHAMBLED OFF.

SEVERELY WEAKENED, THE ROGUE COP STRUGGLED TO GET HIS THOUGHTS TOGETHER.

MY ARTIFICAL PARTS WILL NEED SOME REPAIRS, BUT AT LEAST I'M STILL ALIVE.

PAINFULLY, HE MADE HIS WAY TO THE BRIDGE.
I THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOLD ME EVERYTHING, COMMANDER.
ARREST HIM! HE'S NOT THE PROPER LAW!

MAYBE NOT . . . BUT PROPER ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH YOU SCUM.

. . . NOW, AS I WAS SAYING . . .

I'VE ALREADY DISCOVERED THERE ARE ILLEGAL GENE MUTATION EXPERIMENTS GOING ON IN THIS STATION — AND AS THE CHANEY SCIENTISTS RUSHED UP HERE AS SOON AS I FOUND OUT, IT FOLLOWS THAT YOU'RE CONNECTED. SO WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME SOME MORE.

DON'T THINK YOU CAN FRIGHTEN ME, ROGUE COP, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T! YOU WON'T PULL THAT TRIGGER . . .

NO! BUT I'LL BEAT THE STARCH OUT OF YOU!

OKAY! OKAY! STARK'S THE ONE TO BLAME REALLY . . .

STARK HAD ANTICIPATED THE COMMANDER'S CONFESSION.

THE COMMANDER TALKED—
IT STARTED WHEN STARK JOINED THE STATION. HE COMES FROM CETI IV . . .
THAT'S THE BORDER WORLD THAT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A CIVIL WAR, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S RIGHT. FIFTEEN YEARS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION WITH BOTH SIDES REPORTING HEAVY LOSSES. AFTER ALL THAT TIME, NEITHER SIDE WAS ANY CLOSER TO WINNING THAN AT THE BEGINNING.

STARK HAD A PROPOSITION WHICH WOULD ENSURE HIS SIDE WON THE WAR . . . AND MAKE US ALL VERY, VERY RICH IN THE PROCESS.

THE SCIENTISTS JUMPED AT THE CHANCE. IT INVOLVED GENETIC EXPERIMENTS — BANNED BY INTERGALACTIC TREATY AFTER THE BACTERIA WARS OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

AND THE AIM: THE CREATION OF A SUPERSOLDIER! MEAN, VICIOUS, RUTHLESS, AND TOTALLY DEDICATED TO WINNING.
IT'S LONG BEEN POSSIBLE — ALL IT NEEDED WAS THE WILL TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
WITH AN ARMY OF WEREBEASTS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THEIR COMMANDER, VICTORY WAS CERTAIN.

RESEARCH WOULD GO ON HERE — A BACKWATER SPACE-STATION WELL AWAY FROM PRYING EYES.
THE EXPERIMENTS HIT A FEW SNAGS — THE SUPERSOLDIERS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE INTELLIGENT AND TOTALLY OBEDIENT!
THE PROTOTYPE WAS MORE LIKE A WILD BEAST!
YOU SCIENTISTS, WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED?
WE SAW THIS AS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

ROGUE COP SOUNDED THE ALARM.

THERE IS A DANGEROUS BEAST ON THE LOOSE! DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CABINS!
ROGUE COP PREPARED FOR BATTLE!
I'VE GOT TO CLEAR UP THIS MESS QUICKLY BEFORE THE BEAST KILLS AGAIN.

HE PREFERRED TO SEARCH ALONE.
MEANWHILE, ON THE ENGINEERING DECK.
THE BEAST — IT'S THERE!
AND IT'S KILLED AGAIN!
CORNERED, THE BEAST LASHED OUT.
HELP ME . . . AAAAAA!

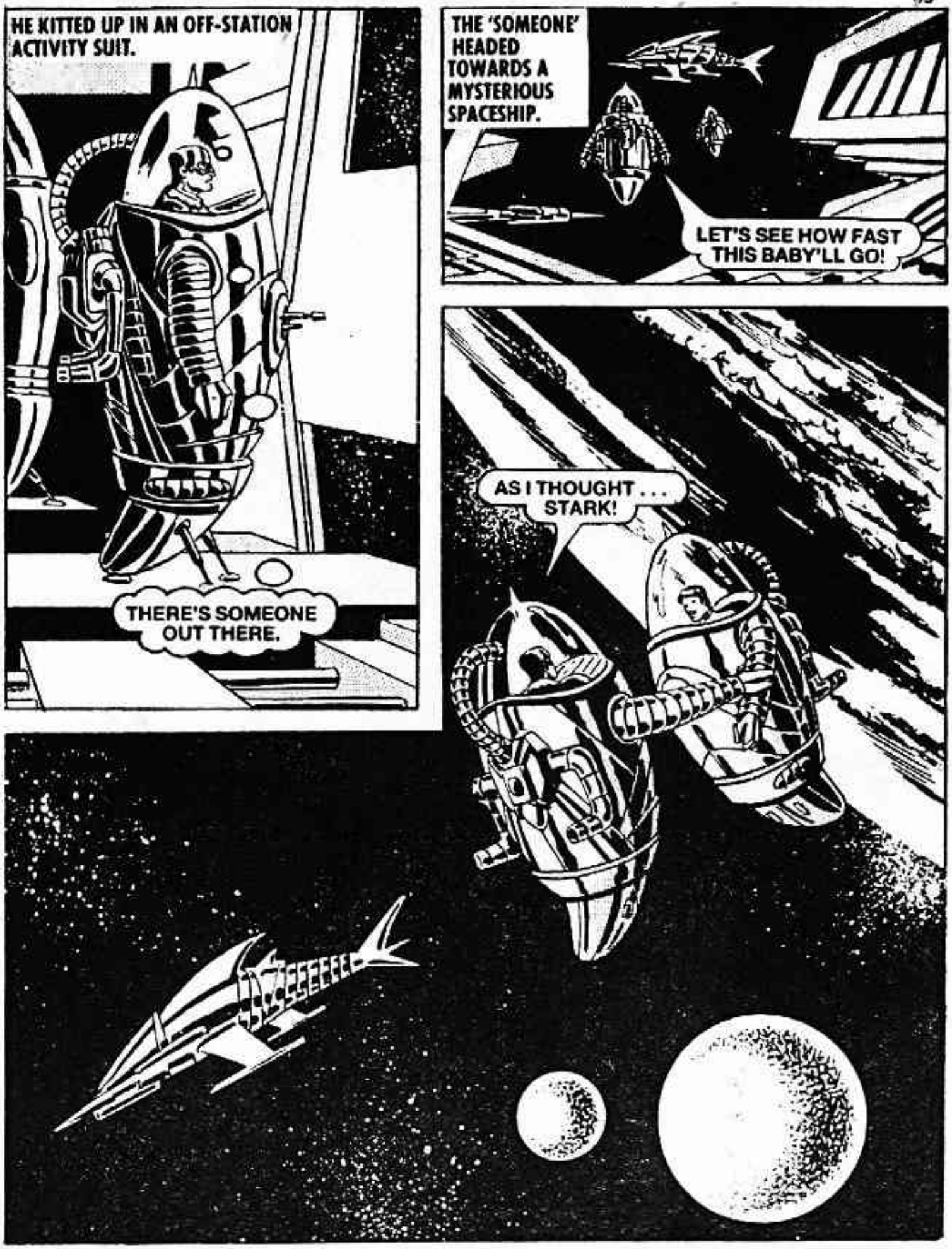
THE SECURITY TEAM WERE NO MATCH FOR THE CRAZED WEREBEAST.

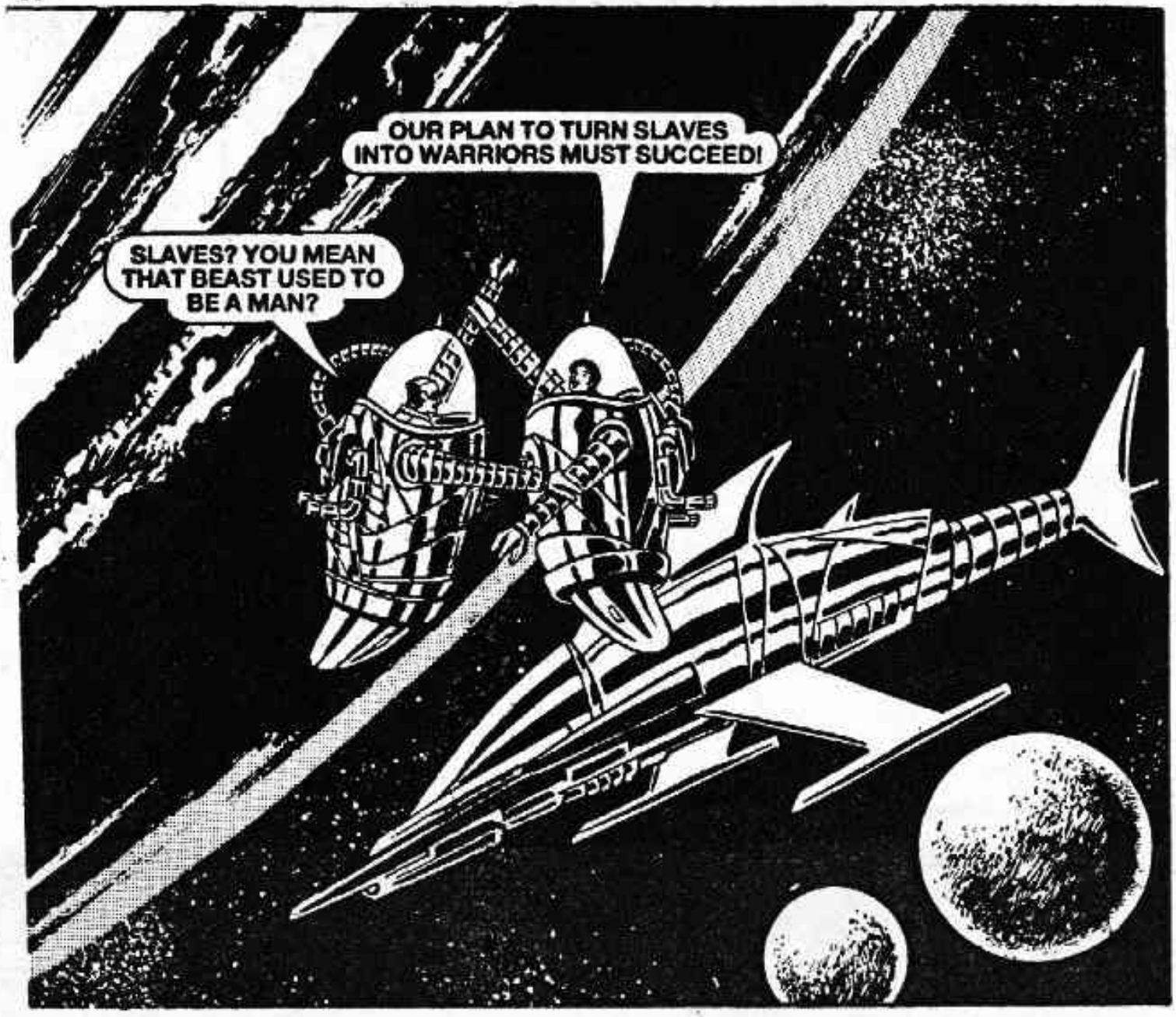
GROWL

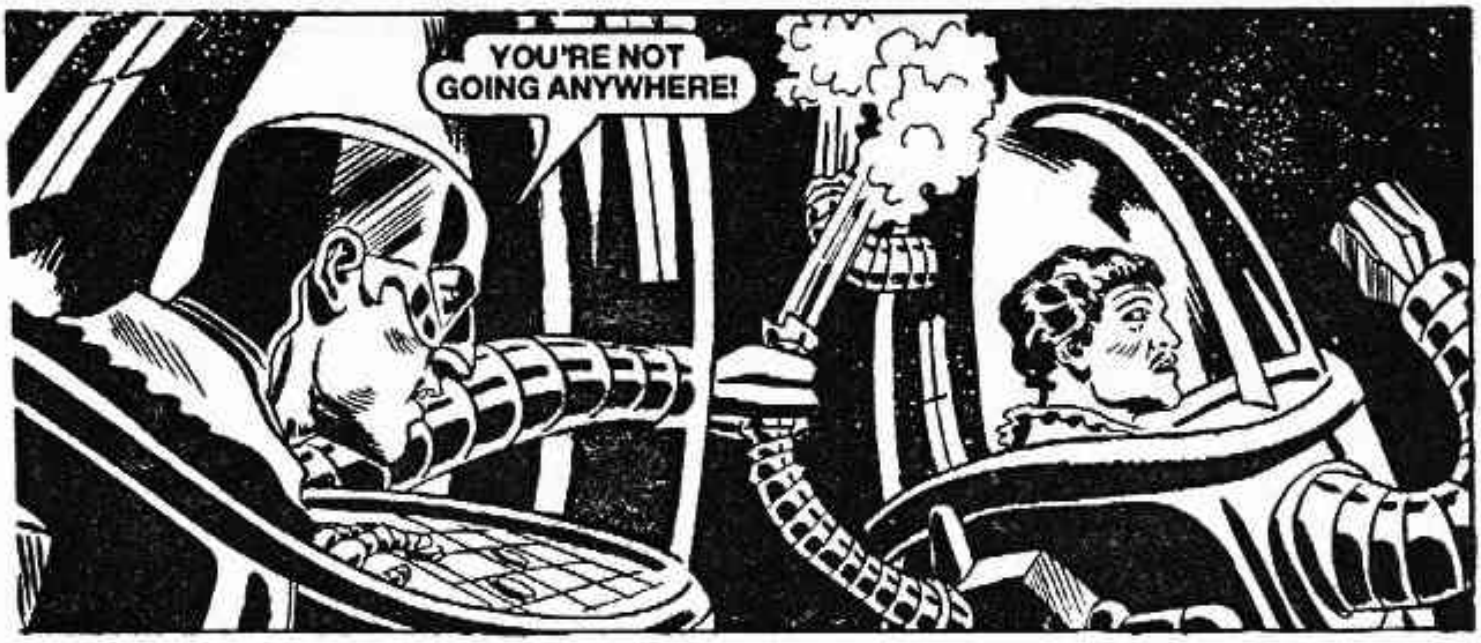
BLOOD! THE BEAST'S HURT — AND PROBABLY HIDING DOWN IN THE MAINTENANCE TUNNELS.
SUDDENLY . . .

THE BLOW WOULD HAVE KILLED MOST MEN — BUT ROGUE COP WAS NO ORDINARY MAN.
THE BEAST WILL HAVE TO WAIT — SOMEONE ELSE IS TRYING TO KILL ME.

WHOEVER IT IS, HE THINKS HE CAN ESCAPE BY LEAVING THE STATION. SOMEONE IS USING THAT AIRLOCK.

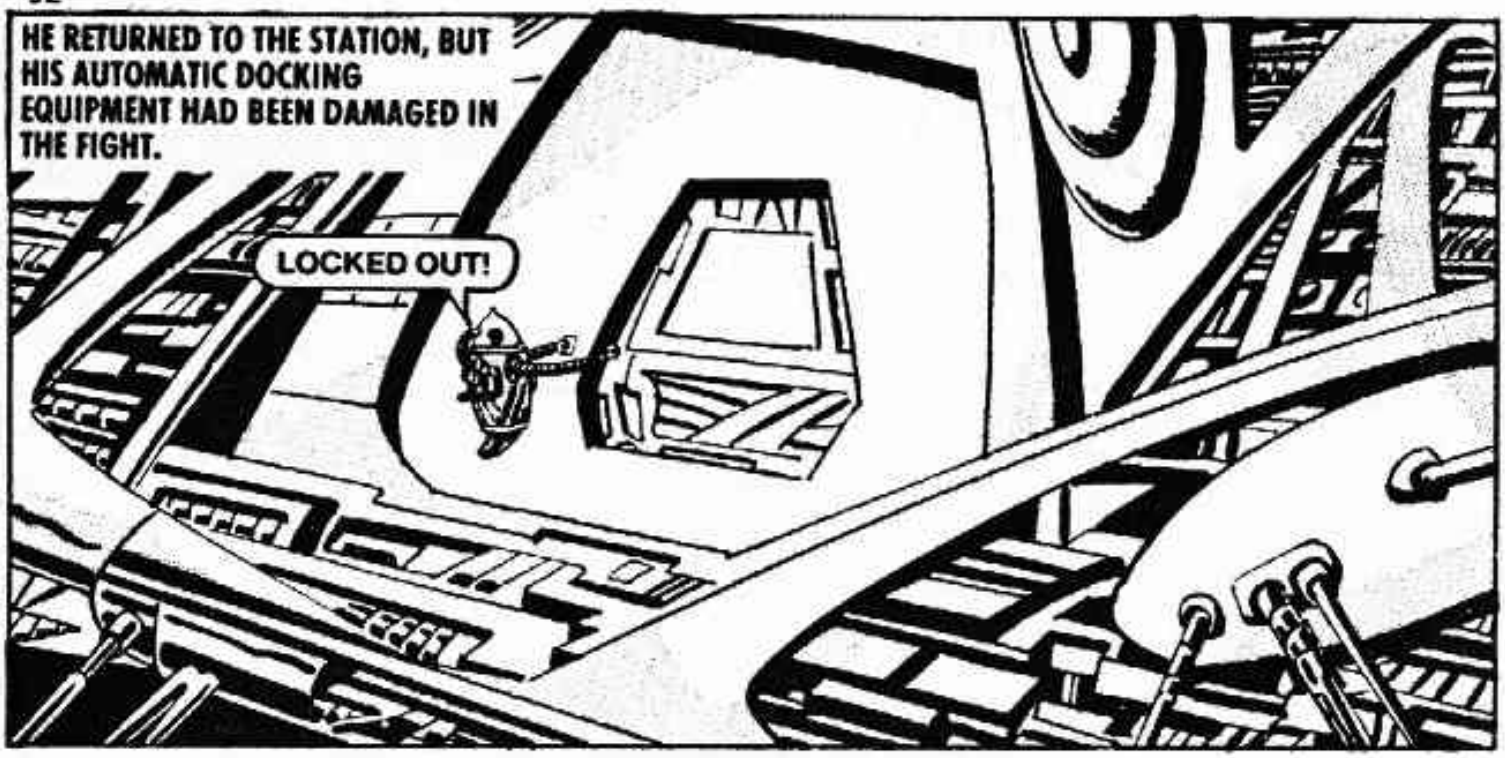

HE KITTED UP IN AN OFF-STATION ACTIVITY SUIT.
THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE.
THE 'SOMEONE' HEADED TOWARDS A MYSTERIOUS SPACESHIP.
LET'S SEE HOW FAST THIS BABY'LL GO!
AS I THOUGHT . . . STARK!

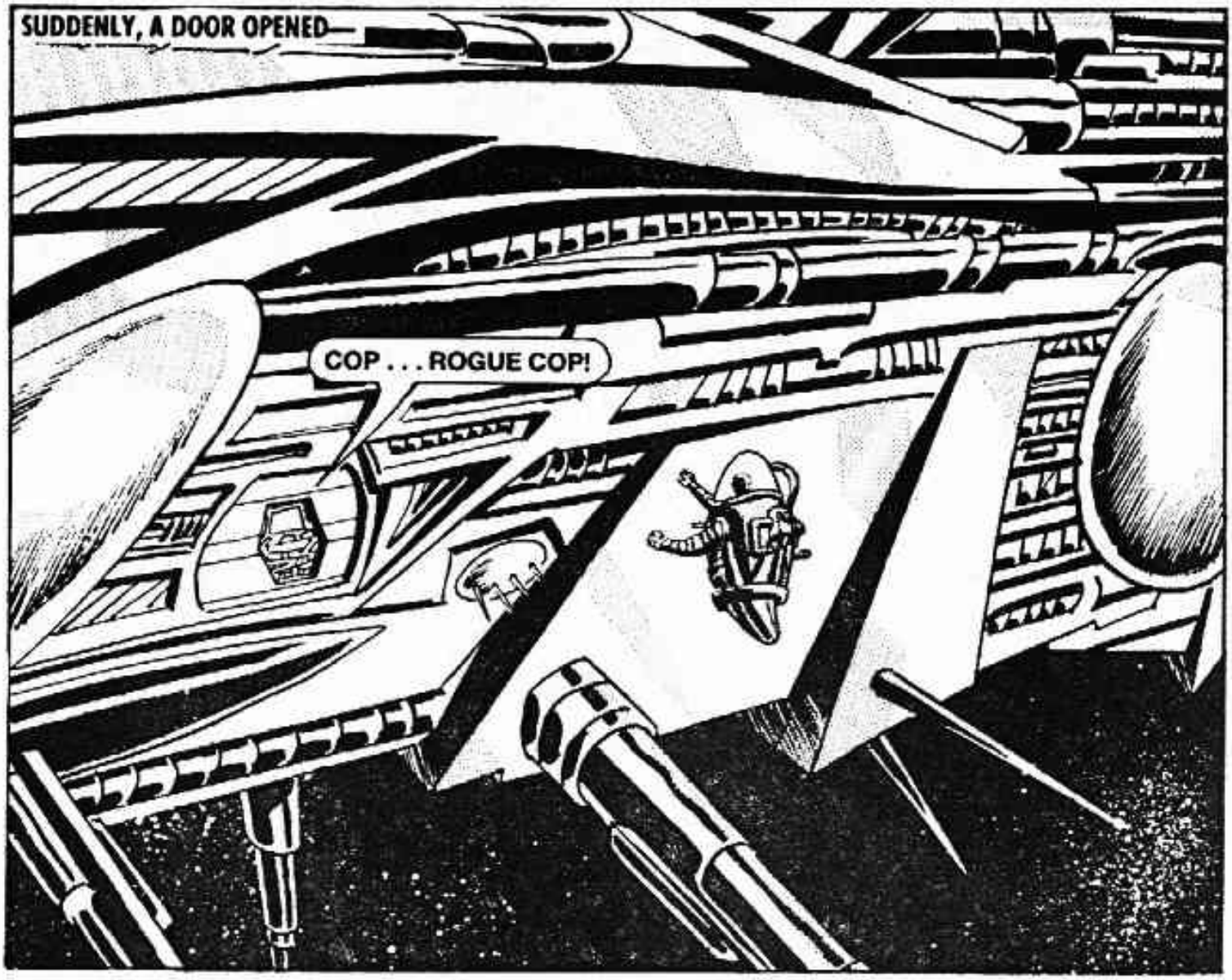

OUR PLAN TO TURN SLAVES INTO WARRIORS MUST SUCCEED!
SLAVES? YOU MEAN THAT BEAST USED TO BE A MAN?


YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

ON BOARD THE ALIEN CRAFT.
STARK DIDN'T MAKE IT. SET COURSE FOR CETI IV.

THEY MUST BE STARK'S PEOPLE, AND THEY'RE LEAVING — GOOD RIDDANCE!


HE RETURNED TO THE STATION, BUT HIS AUTOMATIC DOCKING EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN DAMAGED IN THE FIGHT.
LOCKED OUT!


SUDDENLY, A DOOR OPENED—
COP . . . ROGUE COP!

ROGUE COP REACHED THE EMERGENCY HATCH.

WHO ARE YOU?

HAZZARD — I'M THE ONE WHO SENT THE CALL!

SO THE COMMANDER'S SEEN SENSE AND LET YOU LOOSE!

PEOPLE WERE GETTING TRIGGER HAPPY AND THERE'S BEEN A NUMBER OF ACCIDENTAL KILLINGS ABOARD THE SHIP.

THE WEREBEAST IS AS MUCH A VICTIM AS THE PEOPLE IT HAS CLAWED TO DEATH. THE REAL VILLAINS HERE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO BRED IT TO KILL!

ALL OVER THE SPACESTATION, SQUADS OF SECURITY GUARDS WERE SEARCHING IN VAIN FOR THE BEAST.

THEY REACHED THE BRIDGE — NERVE CENTRE OF THE SPACESTATION.
IT'S TIME WE DID SOMETHING . . . FAST. COMMANDER! GET ME A MAP OF THE SPACESTATION! AND GET A SQUAD OF SECURITY MEN READY TO MOVE ON MY SIGNAL!

ROGUE COP DIDN'T WASTE MUCH TIME.
NOW TO FLUSH THE BEAST OUT!

THE INFRA-RED BODYSCAN INDICATES SOMETHING UP AHEAD.
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CORNER HIM.

THERE IT IS!
IT HASN'T SEEN US. IT'S AN EASY KILL.

NO . . . DON'T SHOOT! LET IT GO THAT WAY!

FIRE NOW . . . BUT MISS! FORCE IT LEFT!

BUT THE NERVOUS GUARD MISSED AND HIT A FUEL LINE—
YOU IDIOT!
I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED . . . AND SO IS THE BEAST, BUT YOU HAVE TO DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE TOLD. GET OUT OF HERE! REDIRECT THE SECURITY FORCE AND GET SOME FIREFIGHTERS — NOW!

ABOVE THE FIRE, THE SITUATION WAS CHAOTIC. FIRE CONSUMED OXYGEN AT A GREAT RATE, AND IT COULDN'T BE TURNED OFF BECAUSE THE CREW WOULD DIE.
THE SITUATION IS OUT OF CONTROL!

BACK IN THE MAINTENANCE TUNNELS, ROGUE COP HEARD THE CRIES FROM ABOVE.
THEY'RE IN A PANIC— AND SO WILL THE BEAST BE.

THE BEAST EMERGED FRIGHTENED, AND SEARCHING FOR OXYGEN.

ALBERT? ALBERT! LET HIM GO!

EASY NOW, EVERYONE! DON'T PANIC — JUST HEAD QUIETLY FOR THE EXIT!

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU! IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING — PUT THE MAN DOWN, GENTLY.

EASE OFF! I'M TRYING TO CALM THE BEAST.

I KNOW YOU WERE HUMAN ONCE — IF YOU'VE ANY HUMANITY LEFT I'D LIKE YOU TO LET THE MAN GO AND COME OVER TO ME . . . NO ONE WILL HURT YOU . . . I'LL MAKE SURE OF THAT.

THE BEAST SEEMS SOOTHED BY ROGUE COP'S WORDS—

BUT THE COMMANDER AND THE SCIENTISTS ARRIVED AT JUST THE WRONG MOMENT—
IT'S GOING TO KILL US!
STOP! STOP! I CREATED YOU!

IT'S GOING TO KILL US ALL! YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

THE SIGHT OF THE SCIENTISTS HAD TURNED THE BEAST WILD WITH FURY . . .

SORRY . . . I'M SO SORRY!

END OF STORY FOR THE WEREBEAST! BUT THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY FOR YOU, COMMANDER. WHEN I FILE MY REPORT YOU'LL WISH THE BEAST HAD GOT TO YOU!

JONES APPARENTLY STUMBLED ON SECRET EXPERIMENTS AND WAS SWORN TO SECRECY. HIS CONSCIENCE GOT THE BETTER OF HIM SO THE SCIENTISTS HAD HIM KILLED.

ROGUE COP WOULD ALWAYS FIGHT INJUSTICE IN HIS OWN WAY. AND THERE WAS MUCH TO DO IN A GALAXY FULL OF PEOPLE BENT ON EXPLOITING OTHERS . . .

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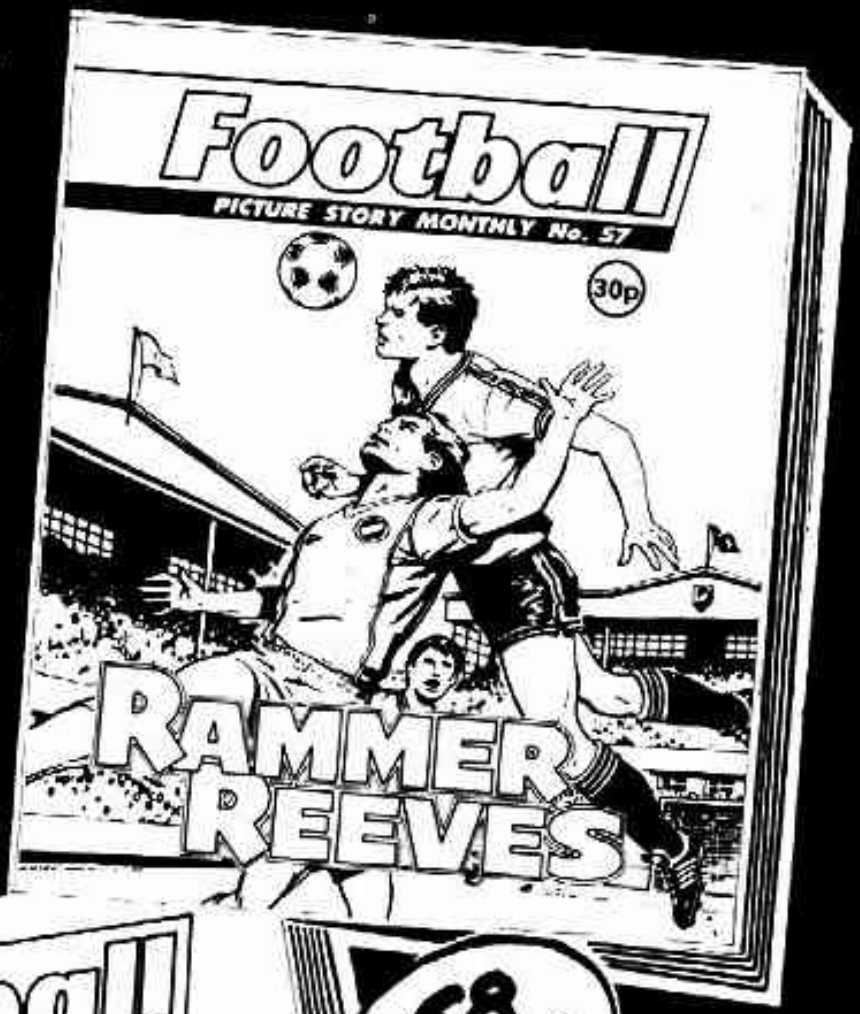
IF YOU'RE A FOOTBALL FAN, YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THESE!



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NOW ON SALE 30p

ROGUE COP'S RETURN

name: Hal Renko . . .
age: 27 . . .
status: none . . .
occupation: none . . .
history: law enforcement officer ages 20-27 . . .
dismissed and injured in space accident . . .
deleted as human after alien clinical restructuring . . .
also known as: Rogue Cop . . .
distinguishing characteristics: pathological hatred of lawbreakers . . .

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